



MONTAGUE

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The motto on Montague's town seal says, "Five fingers on one hand". The five fingers are Montague's five separate villages, namely, Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, Montague City and Montague Center. Each has a very distinct character and personality and has developed differently. Turners Falls is the municipal and industrial center, hosting the town offices, paper mills and manufacturing companies, schools, an industrial park and municipal airport. The Millers River bisects the Village of Millers Falls, whose commercial center is in Montague and industrial center in Erving. Montague City borders the Connecticut River and hosts the Farren long-term care facility. Lake Pleasant developed as a revivalist spiritual camp meeting association, around the lake that still serves as the main water supply for the town. Montague Center is a picture-perfect 1830's historic village, with meandering streams, farms, a Grange and clapboard houses surrounding a village green.

The town is recognized as having tremendous potential for growth. State Routes 2 and 63 and nearby I-91 provide excellent transportation access. The 2,000 acres of vacant land in the center of town owned by Northeast Utilities represent the largest undeveloped piece of industrially zoned land in Western Massachusetts. Northeast Utilities first proposed to use the site for twin nuclear power plants in the mid 1970s and still retains plans to build some kind of power plant on it. Large, undeveloped parcels of agricultural land provide long-term financial security for farmers and bucolic vistas for travelers along country roads, as town planners brace themselves for the next wave of housing development.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Leverett and Sunderland on the south; Deerfield and Greenfield on the west and northwest, Gill on the north; separated from Montague by the Connecticut River; Erving on the north and northeast; and Wendell on the east. Montague is one mile southeast of Greenfield, 36 miles north of Springfield, and 96 miles northwest of Boston.

Total Area: 31.40 sq. miles

Land Area: 30.41 sq. miles

Population: 8,316

Density: 273 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Greenfield, Millers Falls

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 863-3204

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1754

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,845		
Democrats	1,879	38.8	%
Republicans	511	10.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,455	50.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Montague town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	8,489	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	8,489	100.0
Male.....	4,031	47.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	217	2.6
Female.....	4,458	52.5	Mexican.....	27	0.3
Under 5 years.....	507	6.0	Puerto Rican.....	146	1.7
5 to 9 years.....	517	6.1	Cuban.....	10	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	593	7.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	34	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	535	6.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	8,272	97.4
20 to 24 years.....	460	5.4	White alone.....	7,959	93.8
25 to 34 years.....	1,091	12.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,397	16.5	Total population.....	8,489	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,261	14.9	In households.....	8,345	98.3
55 to 59 years.....	428	5.0	Householder.....	3,616	42.6
60 to 64 years.....	296	3.5	Spouse.....	1,552	18.3
65 to 74 years.....	693	8.2	Child.....	2,321	27.3
75 to 84 years.....	568	6.7	Own child under 18 years.....	1,824	21.5
85 years and over.....	143	1.7	Other relatives.....	260	3.1
Median age (years).....	39.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	84	1.0
18 years and over.....	6,540	77.0	Nonrelatives.....	596	7.0
Male.....	3,072	36.2	Unmarried partner.....	289	3.4
Female.....	3,468	40.9	In group quarters.....	144	1.7
21 years and over.....	6,261	73.8	Institutionalized population.....	117	1.4
62 years and over.....	1,563	18.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	27	0.3
65 years and over.....	1,404	16.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	530	6.2	Total households.....	3,616	100.0
Female.....	874	10.3	Family households (families).....	2,170	60.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,038	28.7
One race.....	8,326	98.1	Married-couple family.....	1,552	42.9
White.....	8,076	95.1	With own children under 18 years.....	647	17.9
Black or African American.....	71	0.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	450	12.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	33	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	297	8.2
Asian.....	79	0.9	Nonfamily households.....	1,446	40.0
Asian Indian.....	3	-	Householder living alone.....	1,152	31.9
Chinese.....	14	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	489	13.5
Filipino.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,108	30.6
Japanese.....	4	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over ..	1,008	27.9
Korean.....	25	0.3	Average household size.....	2.31	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	2.90	(X)
Other Asian ¹	27	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	9	0.1	Total housing units.....	3,844	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,616	94.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	228	5.9
Samoa.....	5	0.1	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	18	0.5
Some other race.....	58	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	163	1.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.4	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,616	100.0
White.....	8,222	96.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,196	60.7
Black or African American.....	140	1.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,420	39.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	91	1.1	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.48	(X)
Asian.....	106	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.05	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	0.1			
Some other race.....	94	1.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	110
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County are State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Main Railroad) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion of the county.

Major Highways

The principal highways are State Route 2, which runs across northern Massachusetts, and State Route 63 going N-S.

Rail

Freight rail service is available from the Central Vermont Railway and from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number for the Central Vermont: (802) 527-3402; contact number for the STRR: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Montague is a member of the Greenfield Montague Transportation Area (GMTA), which runs a fixed route service between the two communities and 2 trips daily M-F to Amherst. The GMTA also provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation facility, is located in Montague, between the villages of Turners Falls and Millers Falls. It has a 3,013' x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Farren Care Center, Inc

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.